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ABSTRACT

A follow-up study was conducted at William Rainey Harper College (WRHC) to determine the employment and educational status of graduates of the Legal Technology (LTE) program 6 months after receiving their degree. Attempts were made to contact all 59 1983 LTE graduates for telephone interviews and compare their responses to findings from previous surveys of program graduates. Study findings, based on an 81% response rate, included the following: (1) over the past 4 years, 43% to 49% of the LTE graduates had found employment in a law office, compared to 24.5% in the 1970's; (2) of the 1983 graduates, almost 69% were employed either in a law office or a law-related area; (3) the total voluntary and involuntary unemployment rate among graduates was 12.5%, contrasted with an unemployment rate of almost 30% in the 1970's; (4) the percentage of students who were working in jobs unrelated to law had increased each year, reaching a high of 12.5% in 1983; (5) there was a growing tendency for LTE graduates to work for the same firm they were working for when they entered the program, with half of the employed graduates in 1983 following this pattern; (6) approximately 38% of the 1983 graduates were working in WRHC's district; (7) the average salary of the 1983 employed graduates was $16,825, which was unchanged from the previous year; and (8) approximately 31% of the LTE graduates had continued their education. The interview schedule and detailed findings are included. (AYC)

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WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER COLLEGE

Follow-up Study of 1983

Legal Technology Graduates

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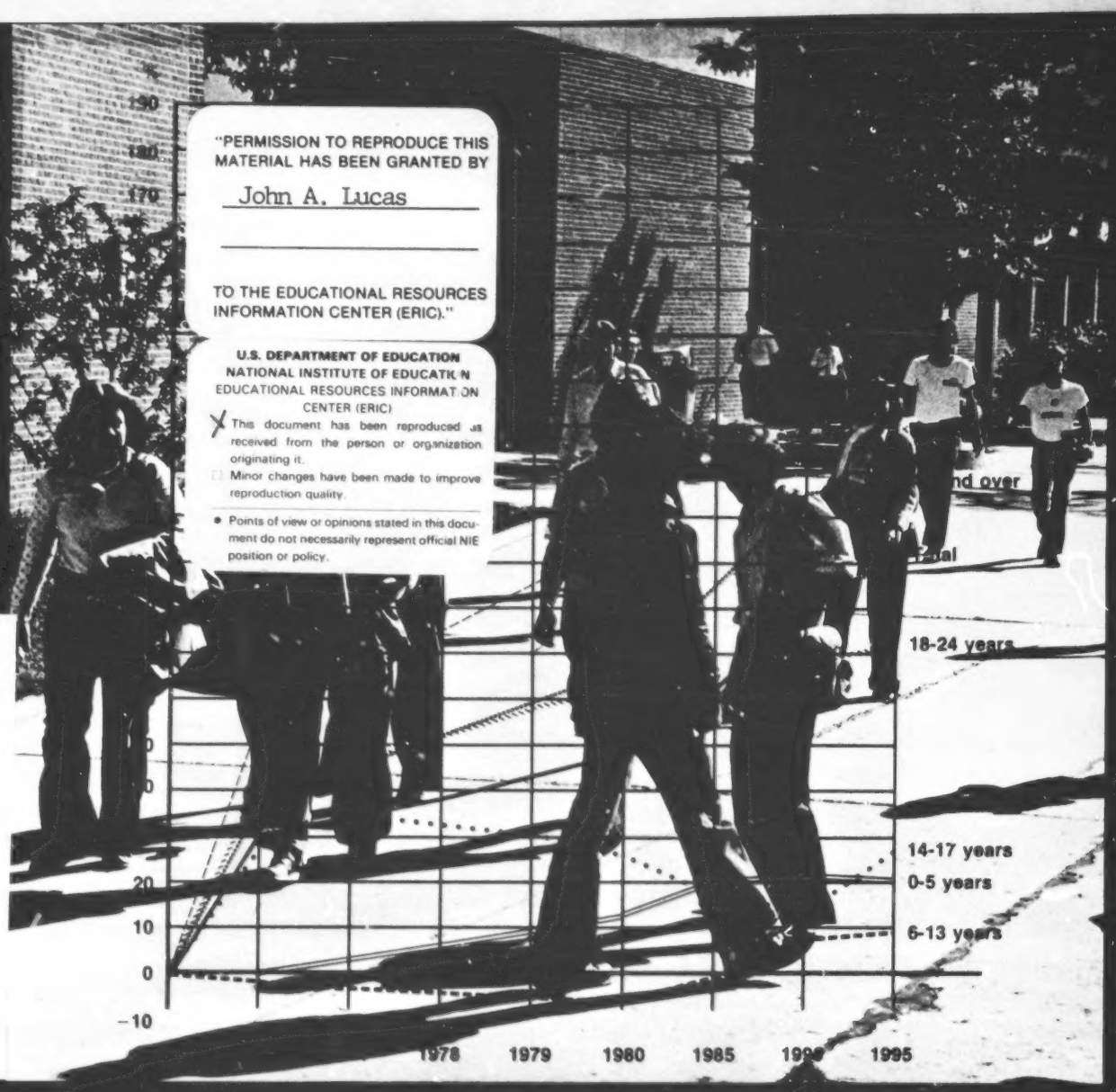

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ABSTRACT

THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY WAS TO FOLLOW UP LEGAL TECHNOLOGY (LTE) GRADUATES SIX MONTHS AFTER THEY ACHIEVED THEIR DEGREE AT HARPER IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THEIR PRESENT JOB SITUATION AND CONTINUING EDUCATION ACTIVITY. THE DATA WAS COMPARED TO PAST FOLLOW-UP STUDIES GOING BACK TO THE EARLY 1970s. A TOTAL OF FIFTY-NINE LTE GRADUATES IN 1983 WERE SURVEYED OVER THE TELEPHONE AND AFTER A NUMBER OF CALLS, AN 81 PERCENT RESPONSE RATE WAS ACHIEVED.

RESULTS OF THE STUDY SHOWED THAT IT APPEARS THAT THERE IS A GROWING TREND FOR LTE GRADUATES TO BE EMPLOYED. MORE ARE FINDING EMPLOYMENT IN LAW OFFICES OR LAW RELATED AREAS, BUT AT THE SAME TIME MORE ARE FORCED TO TAKE EMPLOYMENT IN NON-LAW RELATED AREAS. AT THE PRESENT TIME THERE DOES NOT SEEM TO BE THE CAPABILITY FOR ABSORBING ALL THE EXPANDING WORK FORCE OF LTE GRADUATES IN LAW RELATED FIELDS. THERE ALSO IS A GROWING TREND FOR LTE GRADUATES TO WORK FOR THE SAME FIRM AS THE ONE WHERE THEY WERE EMPLOYED PRIOR TO ENROLLING AT HARPER. STILL ANOTHER TREND FINDS LTE GRADUATES FINDING EMPLOYMENT CLOSER TO HOME. FINALLY, JUST UNDER ONE-THIRD OF THE LTE ALUMNI HAVE CONTINUED THEIR EDUCATION (MOSTLY AT HARPER) AFTER RECEIVING THEIR LTE DEGREE WHICH HAS BEEN A TYPICAL SITUATION OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS.

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this study was to follow up Legal Technology (LTE) graduates six months after they achieved their degree at Harper in order to determine their present job situation and continuing education activity. The data was then compared to past follow-up studies. The study was requested by the Coordinator of the LTE program.

POPULATION SURVEYED AND METHODOLOGY

All 59 LTE 1983 graduates were surveyed over the telephone. After several tries, 48 graduates or 81 percent of the graduates were reached and surveyed. The telephone interviewers used the survey form which is shown in the appendix. This instrument was developed jointly by the Coordinator of the LTE program and the Office of Planning and Institutional Research.

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

Over the last four years, 43-49 percent of the LTE graduates find employment in a law office as compared to only 24½ percent of LTE graduates in the 1970s who found employment in law offices. Moreover, almost 69 percent of the 1983 graduates were employed either in a law office or a law-related area and this is the highest percent in Harper's history. In the 1970s, only 37 percent worked in a law office or a law-related area. The total unemployment rate (both voluntary and involuntary) of the 1983 graduates was only 12½ percent and this was the lowest percent in Harper's LTE history. In the 1970s the total unemployment rate was close to 30 percent. Despite the fact that a higher percent were working in law offices or law-related areas, a higher percent were also forced to work in unrelated areas because they could not find jobs in their field. Among the 1983 LTE graduates 12½ percent (highest in history) had to accept jobs in areas unrelated to law and this percent has been increasing each year. Therefore, we have a picture of a trend of more Harper LTE graduates seeking employment and more finding jobs in law offices or in law-related areas, but at the same time, more also forced to find jobs in areas unrelated to law. So at present there does not seem to be the capability of absorbing all the expanding work force in law related fields.

There seems to be a growing tendency for LTE grads to work for the same firm as the one where they were employed when they entered the LTE program. Among the 1983 graduates, half of those employed were working for such firms, while in the 1970s only 31 percent of the LTE alumni who were employed continued to work for the same firm after graduation.

Another trend shows LTE graduates finding employment closer to home. Some 38 percent of the 1983 graduates employed were working in Harper's district as contrasted to 30 percent for graduates in the 1970s. On the other hand, only 19 percent of this most recent class of graduates who were employed worked in the Loop, while back in the 1970s, 32 percent of those employed commuted to the Loop.

The average salary of the 1983 LTE graduates who were employed was $16,825 which is unchanged from the previous year and up only 6.3 percent from what graduates earned two years previously. This average salary for LTE employed graduates was almost identical to the average salary for all 1982 Career Alumni ($16,438). The two surveys were conducted within three months of one another.

Some 31 percent of the 1983 LTE alumni have continued their education (mostly at Harper) after receiving their LTE degree. This is about average for the last four years, but in the 1970s, 41½ percent of the LTE graduates continued their education.

MAJOR CONCLUSIONS

It appears that there is a growing trend for LTE graduates to be employed. More are finding employment in law offices or law related areas but at the same time more are forced to take employment in non-law related areas. At the present time there does not seem to be the capability for absorbing all the expanding work force of LTE graduates in law related fields. There also is a growing trend for LTE graduates to work for the same firm as the one where they were employed prior to enrolling at Harper. Still another trend finds LTE graduates finding employment closer to home. Finally, just under one-third of the LTE alumni have continued their education (mostly at Harper) after receiving their LTE degree which has been a typical situation over the last four years.

Location of Employment	Distance Index	GRADUATING CLASS 1969-1978 N	1969-1978 PCT	1980 N	1980 PCT	1981 N	1981 PCT	1982 N	1982 PCT	1983 N	1983 PCT
Downtown Chicago	2	84	32.1	-	-	20	40.0	10	25.7	8	19.0
Outer Fringes of Chicago	1	17	6.5	-	-	3	6.0	2	5.1	1	2.4
Northwest Suburbs	0	79	30.1	-	-	13	26.0	14	35.9	16	38.1
Other Chicago Suburbs	1	59	22.5	-	-	8	16.0	8	20.5	12	28.6
Within 40-100 miles of Chicago	3	16	6.1	-	-	5	10.0	5	12.8	4	9.5
In Illinois - more than 100 miles from Chicago	4	1	.4	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Out of State	5	6	2.3	-	-	1	2.0	0	0	1	2.4
Total		262	100.0			50	100.0	39	100.0	42	100.0
Average Distance Index		1.24				1.42		1.15		1.10	
Salary											
$ 5,000 - $ 7,000		3	1.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
$ 7,000 - $ 9,000		34	14.0	1	3.2	0	0	0	0	1	2.5
$ 9,000 - $10,000		22	9.0	2	6.5	0	0	½	1.5	0	0
$10,000 - $12,000		57	23.4	3	9.7	2	5.0	4½	13.7	3	7.5
$12,000 - $15,000		69	28.3	13	41.9	12	30.0	12	36.4	7	17.5
$15,000 - $20,000		42	17.2	12	38.7	21	52.5	10½	31.8	23	57.5
$20,000 - $25,000		14	5.7	0	0	4	10.0	4	12.1	5	12.5
$25,000 - $30,000		3	1.2	0	0	1	2.5	½	1.5	1	2.5
$30,000 - $45,000		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3.0	0	0
Total		244	100.0	31	100.0	40	100.0	33	100.0	40	100.0
Mean Salary		$13,074		$13,543		$15,825		$16,876		$16,825	

EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF LTE GRADUATES AFTER LEAVING HARPER

Current Employment Situation	1969-1978 N	1969-1978 PCT	1980 N	1980 PCT	1981 N	1981 PCT	1982 N	1982 PCT	1983 N	1983 PCT
Employed in Law Office	107	24.5	26	49.0	26	42.6	22	46.8	22	45.8
Employed in Law Related Area	55	12.6	6	11.3	14	22.9	6	12.8	11	22.9
Employed in non-Related Area by Choice	145	33.3	7	13.2	7	11.5	6	12.8	3	6.3
Employed in non-Related Area not by Choice			3	5.7	5	8.2	5	10.6	6	12.5
Unemployed, but Seeking Employment	129	29.6	7	13.2	2	3.3	3	6.4	2	4.2
Unemployed, not Seeking Employment			4	7.6	7	11.5	5	10.6	4	8.3
Total	436	100.0	53	100.0	61	100.0	47	100.0	48	100.0
How Graduates Found Their Jobs										
Continued to Work for Same Firm as Worked While at Harper	50	30.7	17	40.4	18	34.6	19	48.7	21	50.0
Friends helped me find employment Easily	19	11.6	3	7.1	6	11.5	6	15.4	6	14.3
Friends helped me find employment, but I could have used help	6	3.7								
Newspaper Ads	3	1.8	7	16.7	14	27.0	6	15.4	6	14.3
Found employment on my own easily	42	25.8	2	4.8	3	5.8	3	7.7	4	9.5
Found employment on my own, but could have used help	14	8.6								
Job Service Office at Harper	0	0	6	14.3	6	11.5	1	2.6	2	4.8
Professional Association Job Placement Service	0	0	1	2.4	0	0	2	5.1	2	4.8
Legal faculty at Harper helped me	13	8.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2.4
Other Harper staff helped me	7	4.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Internship Program in LTE Program	2	1.2	3	7.1	1	1.9	0	0	0	0
Employment Agency	4	2.5	1	2.4	2	3.9	2	5.1	0	0
CETA	1	.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Faculty or Placement Service at Another College	1	.6	0	0	1	1.9	0	0	0	0
Former Job Contacts	1	.6	2	4.8	1	1.9	0	0	0	0
Total	163	100.0	42	100.0	52	100.0	39	100.0	42	100.0

For Those Continuing to Work for Same Firm as They Were When They Attended Harper	GRADUATING CLASS							
	1980		1981		1982		1983	
	N	PCT	N	PCT	N	PCT	N	PCT
Harper's LTE program has already resulted in their position being upgraded	12	70.6	13	72.2	9	47.4	7	33.3
Harper's LTE program is expected to upgrade their position in the future	2	11.8	3	16.7	3	15.8	6	28.6
Harper's LTE program has not affected their position	3	17.6	2	11.1	7	36.8	8	38.1
Total	17	100.0	18	100.0	19	100.0	21	100.0

CONTINUING EDUCATION STATUS OF LTE GRADUATES AFTER LEAVING HARPER

Field in Which Education was Continued	GRADUATING CLASS									
	1969-1978		1980		1981		1982		1983	
	N	PCT	N	PCT	N	PCT	N	PCT	N	PCT
Continued in Legal Technology Field	52½	13.8	4	7.5	4	6.6	4	8.5	7	14.6
Continued in Field Related to Law			2	3.8	16	26.2	3	6.4	4	8.3
Continued in Field Unrelated to Law	105½	27.7	5	9.4	8	13.1	5	10.6	4	8.3
Have not Continued Their Education	223	58.5	42	79.3	33	54.1	35	74.5	33	68.8
Total	381	100.0	53	100.0	61	100.0	47	100.0	48	100.0

Type of Institution where Education is or has been Continued	Graduating Class 1980 N	1980 PCT	1981 N	1981 PCT	1982 N	1982 PCT	1983 N	1983 PCT
Community College	7	63.6	20	71.4	7	58.4	11	73.3
Four-Year College	2	18.2	7	25.0	4	33.3	3	20.0
Technical School	1	9.1	0	0	0	0	1	6.7
Law School	1	9.1	1	3.6	1	8.3	0	0
Total	11	100.0	28	100.0	12	100.0	15	100.0

Colleges Attending after Graduation from Harper with LTE Degree or Certificate

	Class of 1980 N	1981 N	1982 N	1983 N
Technical Schools				
Keller School of Management	1	0	0	0
Paralegal Institute of Philadelphia	0	0	0	1
Law Schools				
DePaul Law School	1	0	0	0
Chicago/Kent College of Law	0	1	0	0
John Marshall Law School	0	0	1	0
Community Colleges				
Harper	4	12	5	8
Oakton	0	2	0	0
Rock Valley	0	2	0	1
DuPage	0	1	1	0
Triton	0	1	1	0
Elgin	2	1	0	1
McHenry	1	0	0	0
Moraine Valley	0	0	0	1
Not Specified	0	1	0	0
Four-Year Colleges				
Malinckrodt/Wilmette	0	0	0	1
Northeastern	1	3	0	1
Rosary College	0	1	0	0
Loyola	0	1	0	0
Governor's State	0	1	0	0
University of Nebr.(Omaha)	0	1	0	0
Florida State	1	0	0	0
DePaul	0	0	1	0
Northern Illinois	0	0	1	1
Mundelein	0	0	1	0
Eastern Illinois	0	0	1	0

JOB TITLES OF 1982 LTE GRADUATES EMPLOYED

Legal Related Job Titles	N	Non-Related Job Titles	N
Paralegal	13	Accounting Clerk	1
Paralegal/Secretary	3	Clerk Typist	1
Legal Assistant	3	Secretary/Office Manager	1
Legal Secretary	2	Sales Associate	1
Loan and Mortgage Processor	2	Clerical	1
Accounting Clerk	1	Manager	1
Security Examiner	1	Sales Correspondent	1
Legal Secretary/Office Manager	1	Pharmacy Technician	1
Paralegal/Office Manager	1	Jewelry Sales	1
Customer Relations	1	Insurance/General Office	1
		Inventory Control	1
Total	28		11

JOB TITLES OF 1981 LTE GRADUATES EMPLOYED

Legal Related Job Titles	N	Non-Related Job Titles	N
Paralegal	19	Secretary	3
Legal Secretary	7	Clerk	2
Administrative Assistant	2	Bus Driver	1
Secretary	2	Student Aide	1
Legal Assistant	1	Claims Examiner	1
Assistant Paralegal	1	Agency Accounting	1
Property Manager	1	Draftsman	1
Specialist in Legal Administration	1	Restaurant Owner	1
Jury Administrator	1	Missionary	1
Legal Researcher	1		
Legal Assistant/Office Manager	1		
Real Estate Manager	1		
Paraprofessional	1		
Total	39		12

JOB TITLES OF 1983 LTE GRADUATES EMPLOYED

Legal Related Job Titles	N
Paralegal	7
Legal Secretary	7
Secretary/Paralegal	4
Legal Assistant	3
Secretary	2
Paralegal Assistant - Office Manager	1
Paralegal Examinator	1
Real Estate Department - No Title Yet	1
Supervisor of payroll/Bonds, etc.	1
Legal Secretary/Paralegal	1
Assistant to Corporate Secretary	1
Legal/Law Assistant	1
Administrative Assistant	1
Service Manager	1
Legal Assistant/Secretary	1

Non-Related Job Titles	N
Administrative Secretary	1
School Bus Driver	1
Administrative Assistant	1
Accounting Department/no Title	1
Electronics Advertising	1
Registered Nurse	1
Teller	1
Department Store Cashier	1
Computer Operator	1

EMPLOYERS OF 1981 LTE GRADUATES EMPLOYED

Legal Related Employers	N
State's Attorneys Office	2
Cook County District Attoryney	1
Complete Equity Markets	1
De Sota, Inc.	1
Brady, McQueen, Martin, Collins and Jensen	1
Pettibone	1
Greene, Bowman, and Flaherty	1
City of Des Plaines	1
Household Corporation	1
Cook Law Office	1
Union Special Corporation	1
Magna, Brown, & Hauser, Ltd.	1
Richard A. Hirschen	1
Strange and Rubel	1
Lytill and Greenfield	1
Pedersen and Hoript	1
Curtin and Tryzna	1
Joyce and Kubasiak	1
U. S. District Court	1
John D. Keller and Associates	1
David R. Bryant, Limited	1
All American Life Insurance Co.	1
C.D. Corporation System	1
Northern Petrochemical Company	1
Union 76	1
William L. Kunkel and Company	1
Motorola	1
Holmstrom and Green	1
Cook County Corrections Center	1
Arthur H. Evans, Limited	1
Temporary Office Service	1
Cahill and Gallagher	1
Freedom Finance	1
Altschuler - Melvoin and Glasser	1
Sloan and Connelly	1

Non-Related Employers	N
Turner Development	1
Elgin Community College	1
Walgreens	1
University of Illinois/Circle	1
S and H Redemption Center	1
Davidsmeyer Bus Company	1
Governor's State University	1
Prudential	1
Zurich American Insurance	1
Clark and Barloff	1
Kup and Saucer	1
Total	11

Legal Related Employers (continued)	
Hinshaw and Culbertson	1
Best and Maki	1
Leamer and Roger	1
Total	39

EMPLOYERS OF 1982 LTE GRADUATES EMPLOYED

Legal Related Employers	N
Secretary of State	1
Headberg, Tobin, Corrigan & Wolf	1
Mathias and Schmerak	1
James P. Morgan and Assoc.	1
Much, Shelift, Freed, Denneberg Amert and Eiger	1
Hilgendors and Gottlieb	1
Condon and Zopp	1
Goldsmith, Thelin, Schiller and Dickson	1
Locke, Tellefsen and Learn	1
C.S.B. Company	1
Lomas and Nettleton	1
Garr and De Mortelaere	1
Surburban Law Service	1
Harvey Wallner and Assoc.	1
Miller, Forest, Dawing & Huzagh	1
Cantwell, Smith and Vandale	1
Donald Messinger Law Office	1
Richards and Ralph Chartered	1
Billes V. Allen, Attorney	1
Stone, McQuire and Benjamin	1
Kemper Group	1
Sonnenshein, Carlin, Nath and Rosenthall	1
Check, Mann, and Kate	1
Kinne and Lundemo	1
C. T. Corporation	1
Vela and Reedy	1
Allan Goldberg, Ltd.	1
I.C.M. Mortgage Corporation	1
Total	28

Non-Related Employers	N
I.T.E. Electric Products	1
Chicago Milwaukee Corporation	1
Century 21	1
Allstate Insurance	1
General Telephone Electric Directory Corporation	1
Al and Joe's	1
Meters and Controls	1
Community Hospital	1
Marks Brothers	1
Douglas and Associates	1
Floral Carbon Company	1
Total	11

EMPLOYERS OF 1983 LTE GRADUATES EMPLOYED

Law Related Employers	N
Union Oil	2
Holmstrom and Green	2
IMC Corporation	1
Neal Ross, Attorney	1
Larry Cohen	1
Bruce K. David, P.C.	1
AAR Corporation	1
Dawitt and Hennelly	1
Ticor Title Insurance	1
Mateer and Erickson	1
Kearney and Phelan	1
Rooks, Pitts, Tullagar, Panst	1
Carolyn J. Brown, P.C.	1
Baxter Travenol	1
Driscoll and Driscoll	1
A.C. Nielsen	1
Darnall, Polachek and Assoc.	1
Robert A. Chapski, Ltd.	1
Ronald M. Hankin	1
Allstate Insurance	1
States Attorney's Office	1
Neumark, Bonner, and Feldman	1
Durante and Landers	1
Montgomery Ward Insurance	1
Carboy and Demetra	1
Goldman and Marcus	1
The Firm	1
Kenneth Steffan, Attorney	1
Brady, McCleen and Martin	1
Citizens Bank	1
Gurerad, Konewko, and Drenk	1

Non-Related Employers	N
U.S. Testing	1
Davids Meyer	1
Multi-Graphics	1
Kemper Insurance	1
GTE	1
Alexian Brothers	1
Northwest National Bank	1
Montgomery Wards	1
City Corporation Acceptance Company	1

LEGAL TECH SURVEY OF 1982/83 GRADUATES

Name_____ Telephone_____

1- Employment Status - Check (✓) one.

_____ A. Employed in law office
_____ B. Employed in law related area
_____ C. Employed in non-related area by choice
_____ D. Employed in a non-related area, because I could not find a job in related area
_____ E. Unemployed, but seeking employment
_____ F. Unemployed, but not seeking employment

2- If employed, give job title_____

3- If employed, give name of firm or company_____

4- If employed, give geographic location (either community or if in Chicago location, such as Loop, O'Hare area, south side, etc.) _____

_____

5- How did you find your present job? Check (✓) all that apply.

_____ A. Harper placement service
_____ B. Faculty at Harper
_____ C. Other staff at Harper
_____ D. Friends
_____ E. Newspaper Ad
_____ F. Was working here before coming to Harper
_____ G. Other (specify)_____

6- If you worked at present firm before coming to Harper, has program upgraded your position?

_____ A. Yes
_____ B. Not yet, but it will in future
_____ C. No

7- What is your full-time annual or hourly salary or wage rate? Check (✓) one.

_____ 1- Under $5,000 per year or under $2.40 per hour
_____ 2- $ 5,000 - $ 6,999 per year or $ 2.40 - $ 3.36 per hour
_____ 3- $ 7,000 - $ 8,999 per year or $ 3.37 - $ 4.32 per hour
_____ 4- $ 9,000 - $ 9,999 per year or $ 4.33 - $ 4.80 per hour
_____ 5- $10,000 - $11,999 per year or $ 4.81 - $ 5.76 per hour
_____ 6- $12,000 - $14,999 per year or $ 5.77 - $ 7.20 per hour
_____ 7- $15,000 - $19,999 per year or $ 7.21 - $ 9.61 per hour
_____ 8- $20,000 - $24,999 per year or $ 9.62 - $12.02 per hour
_____ 9- $25,000 - $29,999 per year or $12.02 - $14.42 per hour
_____10- $30,000 - $34,999 per year or $14.42 - $16.83 per hour
_____11- $35,000 - $39,999 per year or $16.83 - $19.23 per hour
_____12- $40,000 - $49,999 per year or $19.23 - $24.04 per hour
_____13- Over $50,000 per year or $24.04 per hour

-over-

8- Have you continued your education since leaving Harper?

_____ A. Yes
_____ B. No

9- If you have continued your education, what type of institution did you attend?

_____ A. Community College (Name)_____
_____ B. Four-year College (Name)_____
_____ C. Technical School (Name)_____
_____ D. Other (Name)_____

10- If you have continued your education, what is your major field?

_____ A. Identical with Legal Technology
_____ B. Related to law
_____ C. Unrelated to law
_____ D. Did not specify

11- How would you describe your satisfaction level of your present job? Check (✓) one

_____ A. Very satisfied
_____ B. Satisfied
_____ C. Neutral
_____ D. Dissatisfied
_____ E. Very Dissatisfied

12- From your standpoint, what improvements (if any) need to be made in the LTE Program?_____

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